tests/investigations fixed by the Government in the said O.M. Therefore, there is no discrimination in the reimbursement of medical expenses to serving beneficiaries and pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Tackling Thalassaemia

21. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how the dreaded diseases like Thalassaemia are being tackled by Government;

(b) whether his Ministry has any plan to advocate compulsory blood testing to detect the carriers before marriage; and

(c) whether Government have initiated any awareness programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The curative treatment for Thalassaemia major is bone marrow transplantation which is available at Christian Medical College, Vellore. The facility to control Thalassaemia by preventing birth of Thalassaemic children by genetic counseling and prenatal diagnosis of the affected foetus during pregnancy and terminating the same is available at Institute of Immunohaematology (Indian Council of Medical Research), Mumbai; Department of Genetics at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Wadia Children Hospital, Mumbai.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration of this Ministry at this stage.

(c) A research project entitled "Community Control of Thalassaemia syndromes awareness, screening. Genetic counseling and Prevention" has been initiated by Indian Council of Medical Research.

Losses in Medical Stores Depot

22. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH ANC FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government Medical Stores Depot has been running in loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that establishment cost has increased almost double during the five years period from 1994-95 to 1999-2000;